

Today's News - Monday, April 18, 2011

- ArcSpace brings us an eyeful of UNStudio's shopping center in South Korea (nothing like it in South Jersey - that's for sure!).
- Iovine finds a bit of a silver lining in NYU's massive expansion plans: "as long as NYU commits to quality - and so far its hiring practices suggest it is - that inevitable expansion can be OK."
- As the Empire State Building heads towards being NYC's greenest spire, the city heads towards requiring buildings to publicly report their energy use with "hopes the postings will shame energy hogs into making changes" (assuming energy hogs can be shamed into anything).
- Kamin is not thrilled there's a chance Studio Gang's Ford Calumet Environmental Center (in the works for 7 years) could be seriously value-engineered or might be abandoned altogether: the design "remains as captivating today as it was on Earth Day in 2004...this design richly deserves to go from promising sketch to glorious reality."
- Rochon cheers Edmonton "waking to the promise of invigorating architecture and enlightened design competitions" with a number of park pavilions and library projects.
- Mays cheers a "comfortably backward" Toronto suburb "on track to get a jolt of modernist architectural electricity" while another project offers a cautionary tale of "the unreadiness of everyone but the very few to pay the price for excellent architecture."
- Genocchio finds "something tragic" in Mexico City's new Museo Soumaya: "It feels derivative, provincial, and almost desperate to be noticed"; with all that money could have bought a "truly innovative piece of architecture."
- Meanwhile, the museum's architect gets the Forbes treatment: "If all goes as planned, Fernando Romero may not be available quite as often for his billionaire father-in-law's future commissions."
- Moore marvels at Belfast's revamped Lyric theater: it is "a lesson in how buildings should be built...a work of craft rather than process; joinery, not flatpack."
- Dunlop offers a glowing progress report on ongoing renovations of Miami's spectacular Vizcaya Museum and Gardens.
- Not such good news from Israel as a "one-time architectural gem" awaiting promised preservation continues to crumble.
- K. Jose reports on a most interesting conversation between Viñoly and Iovine re: What comes after "postmodern" architecture?: "it's lots of little guys putting their names on real, if small, projects that will propel the profession forward" (with a touch of snark for IAUS).
- To understand why the shark, do read Q&A with IAUS insider Suzanne Frank (all those starchitects before they were stars - fascinating history!).
- Q&A with the director of Parsons' new undergraduate degree program in urban design and what exactly is being taught.
- Glancey offers his pick of the best architecture for spring 2011.
- Six win Sustainable Energy Europe Awards 2011 including Solar Decathlon Europe.
- Co and Combs win Rome Prize in Architecture.
- We couldn't resist: sci-fi gothic architecture via "subdivision algorithms."

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UNStudio: Galleria Centercity, Cheonan, South Korea

Editorial> NYU's Expansive Approach: Planning for the future has always been an elusive endeavor...as long as NYU commits to quality—and so far its hiring practices suggest it is—that inevitable expansion can be OK. It can, in fact, be tomorrow's fiercely defended quality of life improvement. By Julie V. Iovine -- Toshiko Mori; Michael van Valkenburgh; Grimshaw [images, links]- The Architect's Newspaper

Empire State Building to strike green gold: City's tallest spire set for recognition as one of its greenest; \$550 million renovation to draw LEED certification as well as 38% energy savings...NYC will begin requiring buildings to report their energy use...posted publicly. The city hopes the postings will shame energy hogs into making changes that will put them more in line with their peers. - Crain's New York

"Best Nest" may need pruning; city officials looking for cuts in Jeanne Gang-designed Ford Calumet Environmental Center: ...reportedly warned that Gang's design might be abandoned altogether...[design] remains as captivating today as it was on Earth Day in 2004...this design richly deserves to go from promising sketch to glorious reality. By Blair Kamin -- Studio Gang Architecture [images]- Chicago Tribune

Edmonton gives the green light to new park pavilions and library updates: ...waking to the promise of invigorating architecture and enlightened design competitions..."Our tolerance for crap must be zero"...the city has entered a springtime in which architecture is being fully embraced... By Lisa Rochon -- Gh3; Dub Architects; Rayleen Hill; Marc Boutin Architectural Collaborative; Teeple Architects; Hughes Condon Marler Architects; Marshall Tittemore Architects/Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects; Shore Tilbe Perkins + Will/Group 2; MJM Architects; HIP Architects- Globe and Mail (Canada)

OpArt Lofts condo is a step forward for comfortably backward Oakville: ...on track to get a jolt of modernist architectural electricity...the end-product should be a fresh, chic updating of classical modernism's solid geometry...In other news...the Cube tale is an important reminder of some things that are wrong with Toronto's residential market...the un-readiness of everyone but the very few to pay the price for excellent architecture. By John Bentley Mays -- Teeple Architects; Roland Rom Colhoff; Richard Witt; Quadrangle Architects [images]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Museo Soumaya: Money Can't Buy Taste: There is something tragic about the spectacular-looking private museum in Mexico City...The building is too reminiscent of Wright (or, on the outside, Gehry and Koolhaas) to stand as a unique piece of contemporary architecture. It feels derivative, provincial, and almost desperate to be noticed...With so much money at his disposal, Carlos Slim could have bought himself a truly innovative piece of architecture. By Benjamin Genocchio -- Fernando Romero- ArtInfo

The World's Richest Man's Favorite Architect: Fernando Romero is having his moment in the sun. The Mexican architect designed the Museo Soumaya — a marquis museum for...Carlos Slim Helu...His firm is starting a practice in New York...If all goes as planned, he may not be available quite as often for his billionaire father-in-law's future commissions.- Forbes

The Rome Prize in Architecture has been awarded to University of Kentucky College of Design Instructor Angie Co and Alumnus Lonn Combs, -- Studio Co; EASTON+COMBS- Archinect

Lyric theatre, Belfast: The revamped theatre is a lesson in how buildings should be built, with plenty of 'creases': ...the building is a thing made, rather than assembled. It is a work of craft rather than process; joinery, not flatpack...there may be more spectacular or adventurous buildings finished this year, but it is a job very well done. By Rowan Moore -- O'Donnell and Tuomey [images]- Guardian (UK)

A progress report on ongoing renovations: A contemporary art project, restored fountain, soon-to-reopen café and gift shop and other improvements are making Vizcaya Museum and Gardens shine: Ernesto Oroza's..."Archetype Vizcaya" offers an enlightening new way to look at and learn more of an extraordinary and complex house built by James Deering... By Beth Dunlop -- F. Burrall Hoffman/Paul Chalfin/Diego Suarez (1916); Conservation Solutions; R.J. Heisenbottle Architects; Falcon + Bueno; Heisenbottle; Heritage Landscapes [images]- Miami Herald

Waiting for preservation hall: Kibbutz Givat Hashlosha's old dining hall was left near the center of Petah Tikva...the one-time architectural gem is crumbling...one of the outstanding early works of architect Arieh Sharon...When the Kibbutz Movement itself is not pushing for preservation of its architectural assets it is no wonder the municipality is in no hurry to devote itself to the task. By Noam Dvir [image]- Ha'aretz (Israel)

What comes after 'postmodern' architecture? Actual architecture! says Rafael Viñoly: The outspoken architect on the renaissance of ... making actual things...even if those things aren't actually buildings...it's lots of little guys putting their names on real, if small, projects that will propel the profession forward. By Katharine Jose -- Julie Lorraine/The Architect's Newspaper; Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies (IAUS); John Burgee Architects; Philip Johnson; SOM; Norman Foster; Jean Nouvel- Capital New York

Talking Heads: In its heyday, the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies felt like the center of the architectural universe. An insider recalls its sprawling ideas, visceral debates, and personal high jinx...Q&A: Suzanne Frank, author of "IAUS: The Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies, An Insider's Memoir" -- Peter Eisenman; Kenneth Frampton; Diana Agrest; Anthony Vidler; Robert Slutzky; Rafael Moneo; Philip Johnson; Rem Koolhaas; Robert A.M. Stern; etc. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Teaching Urban Design: Q&A with Victoria Marshall re: Parsons The New School for Design launching the nation's first undergraduate degree in urban design...what exactly is being taught...just might respond to the tremendous civic interest in cities and how they work...- Urban Omnibus

The best architecture for spring 2011: From an exquisite new bridge in Salford, to a Finnish music venue. By Jonathan Glancey -- WilkinsonEyre/Gifford; Constructed Landscapes/SANAA; Marko Kivistö/Ola Laiho/Mikko Pulkkinen; Architecture PLB; Gareth Jones [links]- Guardian (UK)

Sustainable Energy Europe Award Winners 2011: 6 best-in-class initiatives that promote renewable energy or energy efficiency. -- Solar Decathlon Europe (Spain); The Strawberry Tree (Serbia); Learning: Energy Detectives at Schools (Austria); Demonstration Project for the Renovation of Buildings Multifamilij (Bulgaria); Cycling City Councillors (Germany); Renault Tanger Méditerranée (France) [links to info/images]- EU Sustainable Energy Week

The Rome Prize in Architecture has been awarded to University of Kentucky College of Design instructor Angie Co and alumnus Lonn Combs. -- Studio Co; EASTON+COMBS- Archinect

Sci-fi 'gothic' architecture brought to life: Swiss architect has built fantastical form using "subdivision algorithm"...broadly termed computational architecture -- architectural models generated by a computer program. -- Michael Hansmeyer; Ari Kardasis [slide show]- CNN

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